

## COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? June 18 St. Charles, MN

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference wireless / cell phones?
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

I-146-005 Does the project include any conditions to guarantee reduction of or phase out of coal for energy source?

I-146-001 Is the Needs Assessment based on current electricity use? or projected use?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

### I-146-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-146-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to vegetation and wildlife will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- ☐ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement  
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

I-146-002

*Prairie Restoration Project est. 1995*  
*Certified Backyard Habitat by National*  
*Wildlife Federation in 2003.*  
*Location 25118 Co Rd 17*  
*Wilson Township, Winona County*

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

*Trempealeau Wildlife Refuge*  
*Mississippi River corridor*  
*Agungnon Park*  
*Perrin State Park*  
*Great River Bluff State Park*  
*Apple Blossom Scenic Byway / Bike Route*  
*\* Migrating bird fly ways*  
*\* waterfowl habitat - riparian habitat of M. River*  
*\* Scenic bluff & conlee region*

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-146-006 1) Does the Need outweigh the risks and impact of this high power transmission line project?
- I-146-007 2) Does this project meet goals & objectives for using or developing smart, low carbon energy sources?
- I-146-003 3) Is the Need Assessment accurate?
- I-146-008 4) What impact does consumer use of high efficiency energy products, CFLs, & other factors on demand side have on the Need Assessment?

- I-146-004 \* The displays & pictures & maps were very helpful. I asked to see where 345 KV transmission lines were presently existing & was directed to the lines along I-90. If the I-90 corridor already accommodates high transmission lines, shouldn't this be the plan for route to La Crosse?
- \* I asked about energy sources, but was told this project is only addressing transmission. Shouldn't strategies be put in place to address the whole goal & objectives for energy use?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-146-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

I-146-004

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-146-005

Your comment has been noted. Due to the transmission grid's interconnected nature as well as to electricity's nature - it's generally difficult to identify a specific source of electricity on the grid. The proposed CapX2020 transmission lines will serve the region's expected growth and help begin to meet Minnesota's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires utilities to deliver 25 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2025 (Xcel Energy is mandated to deliver 30 percent by 2020, with 25 percent from wind). Most of that energy comes from wind turbines.

I-146-006

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

I-146-007

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.

**I-146-008**

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-146-001.